

## **Methods and Apparatuses for Fixation of the Spine Through an Access Device**

### Abstract of the Disclosure

In a method of treating the spine of a patient, an access device is inserted into the patient with the access device in a first configuration having a first cross-sectional area at a distal portion thereof. The access device is actuated to a second configuration having an enlarged cross-sectional area at the distal portion thereof such that the distal portion extends across at least a portion of each of two adjacent vertebrae. A stabilization of the vertebrae is then achieved using either translaminar facet screw fixation or transfacet pedicle screw fixation.

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